

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01 VO-03 SCS-03 A-01 OPR-02 IO-10

AID-05 FDRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /084 W

----- 101457

R 292358Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5583

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AS, VS

SUBJECT: VOLUNTEER AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL TEAM FOR CLARK AFB TO

ASSIST VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: TIMBERMAN/CONLON TELECON OF APR 29

1. SUMMARY: PRIVATE AUSTRALIAN GROUP CALLED ASIAC HAS OFFERED TO FIELD SELF-CONTAINED MEDICAL TEAM OF 29 PERSONS TO ASSIST VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AT CLARK AFB. ASIAC IS RECENTLY FORMED PRIVATE AID GROUP, BUT ITS ORGANIZERS APPEAR TO BE RESPECTABLE, AND THEY HAVE APPROACHED THEIR TASK IN REALISTIC, SENSIBLE WAY. AUSTRALIAN DFA AND STATE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (WHERE MOST OF GROUP LOCATED) HAVE NO OBJECTION TO OUR PURSUING MATTER WITH ASIAC.

ACTION RECOMMENDED: THAT EMBASSY MANILA CONFIRM WHETHER GROUP WANTED AT CLARK AND, IF SO, THAT USAF MOVE THEM FROM AUSTRALIA TO CLARK AND PROVIDE THEM WITH BASIC SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

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2. EMBASSY CANBERRA AND CONGEN MELBOURNE HAVE INQUIRED MORE FULLY INTO PROPOSAL BY AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR INTER-COUNTRY AID TO CHILDREN (ASIAC) TO SEND SELF-CONTAINED MEDICAL TEAM TO CLARK AFB TO ASSIST IN CARE OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. ASIAC IS RECENTLY-ESTABLISHED ORGANIZATION, BUT IT APPEARS TO BE WELL-ORGANIZED, HAS ADEQUATE COMMUNITY BACKING, AND SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. SOUNDINGS EMBASSY HAS TAKEN WITH AUSTRALIAN DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INDICATE NO RPT NO OBJECTION BY DFA TO OUR DEALING WITH ASIAC. CONGEN MELBOURNE IS INFORMED BY LABOR-CONTROLLED SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT THAT ASIAC IS RESPECTABLE GROUP, AND STATE GOVERNMENT HAS NO RPT NO OBJECTION TO OUR PURSUING MATTER DIRECTLY WITH SPONSORS.

3. BASICALLY, ASIAC HAD INITIALLY INTENDED TO SEND TEAM TO PHU QUOC ISLAND OFF SVN COAST, WHERE REFUGEES FROM DA NANG AREA HAD BEEN SENT. ROGER FORDHAM, WHO IS GENERALLY ASSOCIATED WITH ASIAC GROUP, HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED TO GET ADDITIONAL REFUGEES OUT OF SAIGON. HOWEVER, AFTER TRAVELLING TO MANILA APR 27 AND CONSULTATIONS WITH EMBASSY MANILA APR 28-29, (REF TELECON), HE HAS LOWERED SIGHTS TO FIELDING SELF-CONTAINED MEDICAL TEAM TO CLARK AFB TO HELP VIETNAMESE REFUGEES THERE. WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO SERVE AT GUAM OR WAKE, IF NECESSARY, THOUGH WE HAVE NOT RAISED MATTER WITH THEM.

4. DR. ADRIAN CLARKSON AND DR. DAVID WILSON, BOTH MEDICAL DOCTORS, ARE ORGANIZING ASIAC IN ADELAIDE. HOWEVER, THERE WILL PROBABLY BE PERSONNEL INCLUDED IN MEDICAL TEAM FROM OTHER CITIES IN AUSTRALIA. (EMBASSY CANBERRA HAS RECEIVED RUNDOWN ON ASIAC PLANS FROM MICHAEL DARBY, SYDNEY BUSINESSMAN, ALONG SAME LINES AS ABOVE). CONCEPT OF MEDICAL TEAM IS AS FOLLOWS:

5. THREE SURGEONS, SIX PEDIATRICIANS, SIX GENERAL NURSES, THREE PEDIATRIC NURSES, ONE PHYSIOTHERAPIST, ONE EPIDEMOLOGIST, THREE VIETNAMESE-CHINESE INTERPRETERS, TWO GENERAL ENGINEERS (ONE STRUCTURAL, ONE ELECTRICAL), AND FOUR GENERAL PERSONNEL (SOCIAL WORKERS AND CLERKS). ASIAC TEAM HAS COLLECTED SUPPLIES AS FOLLOWS, LARGEMLY IN ADELIADE AREA: THREE TONS POWDERED MILK, THREE TONS BABY FOOD, ONE TON ASSORTED FOOD, ONE TON PEANUT BUTTER (SIC), TWO TONS GENERAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES, NINE 12 X 12 TENTS.

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6. ONLY POTENTIAL POLITICAL PROBLEM WE SEE AT THIS POINT IS FACT THAT ONE OF SYDNEY ORGANIZERS OF ASIAC IS MICHAEL DARBY, LONG-TIME CHINESE NATIONALIST SUPPORTER AND LIBERAL PARTY OPPONENT OF PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM IN HIS SYDNEY CONSTITUENCY OF WERRIWA IN ELECTIONS OF 1974. DARBY'S FATHER IS MEMBER OF NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LONG-TIME ACTIVIST IN ASIAN PEOPLE'S ANTI-COMMUNIST LEAGUE. THESE POLITICAL CONNECTIONS NOT RPT NOT LIKELY TO RECOMMEND PROJECT TO LABOR GOVERNMENT, BUT DFA HAS

INDICATED TO US THAT THIS IS NOT RPT NOT A PROBLEM.

7. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ASIAC GROUP HAS UNDERTAKEN PRELIMINARY
CONTACTS IN AUSTRALIA TO MOVE TEAM TO MANILA VIA LIGHT AIRCRAFT
BUT WOULD MUCH PREFER MOVING ALTOGETHER WITH EQUIPMENT AND
SUPPLIES VIA USAF AIRCRAFT, IF AVAILABLE. GROUP HAD BEEN
CONSIDERING LEAVING AUSTRALIA FOR PHILIPPINES MAY 1.

8. UPON RECEIPT OF CONFIRMATION FROM EMBASSY MANILA THAT SUCH A
MEDICAL TEAM WOULD BE USEFUL AT CLARK AFB, WE WILL CONFIRM
ARRANGEMENT WITH ASIAC AND FURNISH LIST OF NAMES OF PERSONNEL
INCLUDED IN TEAM.

9. WE ASSUME THAT USAF WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FROM AUSTRALIA
TO CLARK FOR TEAM AND SUCH SUPPLIES AS ARE NEEDED, IN INTEREST OF
GETTING TEAM INTO BUSINESS SOONEST. ASSUME FURTHER THAT USAF WILL
PROVIDE QUARTERS AND MESSING FACILITIES TO TEAM. WE UNDERSTAND
TEAM WILL BE PREPARED TO LIVE IN TENTS, PERHAPS TENTS THEY PREPARED
TO BRING WITH THEM.

GREEN

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